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IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 1994

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE STATEMENT ON ADMIRAL FRANK B. KELSO, II

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry has released the following statement concerning the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Frank B. Kelso, II

"I have discussed with the Secretary of the Navy the ruling made last week in the Tailhook matter and reviewed the DoD Inspector General's conclusions from his investigation.

Without calling into question the correctness of the ruling in a proceeding in which Admiral Kelso was not a party, I note that the DoD Inspector General found no credible evidence that Admiral Kelso had specific knowledge of the misconduct that occurred on the third floor of the Hilton Hotel; that there was no evidence that Admiral Kelso sought to thwart the Navy's internal investigation; and that Admiral Kelso was fully supportive of the DoD Inspector General's investigation. I know that Admiral Kelso did not himself decide on the disposition of the various Flag Officer files developed by the Inspector General. Rather, Secretary Aspin decided to hold those files for review by civilian leadership, specifically, then-incoming Secretary of the Navy John Dalton.

I regard Admiral Kelso as a man of the highest integrity and honor. Under his leadership, the Navy has entered the post-Cold War world dramatically reshaped and fully prepared for new challenges. He has made an enormous contribution to the safety and well-being of the nation. With respect to the underlying causes of the events of Tailhook '91, he understood the importance of addressing this issue and taking all necessary measures to permit the Navy to move on to a new era."

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 1999

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY STATEMENT ON ADMIRAL FRANK B. KELSO, II

Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton releases today a statement concerning the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Frank B. Kelso, II:

"The lessons of Tailhook have been hard on everyone, but they are less so for the men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps must not forget

It is important that we always treat our shipmates with dignity. It is also important that we put the bitterness of Tailhook behind us. The time for healing is now.

I wish to make clear that although I have questioned the leadership which permitted the excesses of Tailhook to take place, I have never questioned the personal integrity and honor of Frank Kelso. I fully concur in Secretary Perry's judgment regarding the Admiral's character.

Admiral Kelso's intellect and leadership have set the Navy on the correct course to meet the challenges of the post cold war era. Since Tailhook '91, he has taken the lead in educating the Navy that sexual harassment will not be tolerated and in fostering an environment of mutual respect and genuine opportunity for women in naval service."

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